

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-5, 8-12, 14-27, 30, 31, 33-42, 45-49, 51-57, and 63-66 are pending in the application. Claims 14-19, 33, 34, and 51-55 were previously withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-5, 8, 10, 11, 20-27, 31, 35-42, 45, 47, 48, 56, 57, and 63-66 were rejected. Claims 9, 12, 30, 46, and 49 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As described below, the objected to dependent claims are being rewritten in independent form by amending independent claims to include the limitations of the objected to dependent claims. Claims 8, 9, 30, 45, 46, and independent claims 63-66 are being cancelled. Claims 6, 7, 13, 28, 29, 43, 44, 50, and 58-62 were previously cancelled. No new matter is being introduced by way of the claim amendments.

Claim 1 is being amended to include the limitations of objected to claim 9 and intervening claim 8. Claims 8 and 9 are being cancelled.

Independent claim 23 is being amended to include the limitations of objected to claim 30. Claim 30 is being cancelled.

Independent claim 38 is being amended to include the limitations of objected to claim 46 and intervening claim 45.

Independent claims 63-66 are being cancelled for purposes of expediting prosecution of the application. Applicant reserves the right to claim the subject matter of these claims in a continuing application.

New independent claim 67 includes the limitations of claim 1 and objected to claim 12. New dependent claims 68-77 correspond to claims 2-5, 9-11, and 20-22, in the same order.

New independent claim 78 includes the limitations of independent claim 38 and objected to claim 49.

In view of the amendments described above and presented by way of mark-ups in the Claim Listing beginning on page 2 of this Amendment, Applicant respectfully submits that all claim rejections in the Office Action at hand are now moot.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims pending after entry of the Amendment (Claims 1-5, 10-12, 20-27, 31, 35-42, 47-49, 56, 57, and 67-78) are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C.

By Mark B. Solomon  
Mark B. Solomon  
Registration No. 44,348  
Telephone: (978) 341-0036  
Facsimile: (978) 341-0136

Concord, MA 01742-9133

Dated: 1/26/05